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The Mohawk Nation

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EVENTS LISTINGS
FOR ACTIVISTS

New Toronto Gay/Lesbian Activist Group Makes Presence Known

Queer Nation Protests Falwell's Toronto Visit

They called him sexist, they called him racist and homophobic too. They even blocked the entrance to the church where he was appearing, but his followers said god loves you anyway.

Through torrents of rain and chattering teeth, a group of about 40 queers and feminists welcomed Jerry Falwell to Toronto with lots of accusations and anger.

Queer Nation (Toronto) joined the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics to protest Falwell's speech at the People's Church on September 14.

Falwell, the wealthy US television evangelist and leader of the so-called "Moral Majority" (which is neither), was appearing with Ken Campbell to kick off "Operation Liberation," vaguely described as a confrontational strategy to "liberate the souls of men and of nations from Satan's tyranny." Both Falwell and Campbell preach and lobby against women's reproductive

rights and call homosexuality a crime.

Only a week old, Queer Nation was born out of several community meetings addressing the recent local surge in gay-bashing and the police violence against hundreds of

lesbians and gay men in Montreal.

An informal group had already held a noisy kiss-in at an all candidates meeting in a predominantly gay riding. The chants and jeers of the crowd drove Campbell, leader of the fundamentalist right wing Family Coalition

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Forum Makes Divisions its Focus

Calling the Mohawk Warrior Society a "cult" that attacks "the good Mohawk people", the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs, a Canadian government sponsored band council at the Akwesasne territory, launched an appeal for funds to help cover the legal costs of Doug George. Doug George is the editor of Akwesasne Notes and a highly vocal opponent of the Warrior Society and gambling.

He is also charged with the murder of another Mohawk who didn't share those views.

On April 30 of this year, two Mohawk men were shot and killed in the Mohawk territory of Akwesasne. Matthew Pyke, an opponent of gambling on the reserve, was killed in a shootout that occurred at the residence of David George, Doug George's brother. Later on that day Harold Edwards Jr., a pro-

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Factionalism Focus of Forum

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gambling Mohawk was found dead. Unarmed, he had been shot in the back. Doug George was charged with that murder.

At that point, police from several different forces invaded the Akwesasne territory, at the request of Canadian band council representatives such as Mike Mitchell, with whom George is aligned. The invasion meant a further loss of sovereignty for the Mohawk Nation.

The issues behind the civil war at Akwesasne very much involve the question of sovereignty, of economic development for that sovereign nation, and of which form of government, and hence which leaders, should represent the Mohawk Nation. Doug George and what is commonly referred to as the "antis", meaning anti-gambling, represents one side of that division. These issues are too complex to cover thoroughly in Ecomedia, but we are mentioning them for one reason.

The appeal for legal defense did not go unheeded in Toronto. Saturday Oct. 15 and Sunday the 16th, two events were to highlight the claims and defense of one side of the factions in Akwesasne. What was billed as an Iroquois Social was held at the Native Canadian Centre, featuring talks by Doug George, Tom Porter, Jake Swamp and Tom Deer. These men clearly oppose the Warrior Society and are currently looking for both financial and popular support for this campaign. Tom Porter might be remembered for statements made earlier this summer when the Canadian and Quebecois governments were

initiating a smear campaign against the Warriors at Kahnawake and Kanestake: he publicly stated that the Warriors had hijacked the struggle at Kanestake to gain legitimacy. The timing of that statement alone was damaging, because it definitely fed into government attempts to divide the Mohawk people. That claim was also repeated by Jake Swamp last week, who added that the Warriors at Kanestake should have been "non-violent" (!)

The Sunday night concert was to be a benefit for the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation Legal Defense Fund. It made no reference on the poster as to what that fund represents, and where that money goes. However in a package we received at Ecomedia the destination of those funds are made very clear. The fund is seeking to raise \$250,000 just for Doug George's trial. Remember that he is charged with the murder of a Mohawk at Akwesasne. It's likely that during the current crisis, well-meaning supporters of the Mohawk Nation's seeing this poster for "The Akwesasne Mohawk Nation Legal Defense Fund" might attend this event expecting their money will be used for the struggle at Kanestake. It was a horrendous mistake, if it was actually a mistake, not to clarify the nature of that fund on the poster. The choice of Toronto activists to side against the Mohawk Warriors in an internal dispute in the Mohawk Nation is up to them, but all other people should be aware of exactly what they're supporting: the efforts of a certain faction

in their fight against the Warriors, and the legal defense of a man charged with murder. Those advertising the events left these details off the poster. The event, however, was cancelled when Arlene Mantle (the headliner) pulled out.

The day before the events in Toronto a statement was issued by Ellen Gabriel at Kanestake, denouncing the speakers for raising funds under false pretenses and making it clear that they do not represent all the Mohawk Nation. She also clarified that they have done nothing to support the current struggle.

The talks by the anti-faction in Toronto raised questions amongst some, and accusations that "the Warriors don't represent all the Mohawk people", and that "they're not all nice people". For us this has never been the question—has the left, or the anarchist community ever represented the whole population? No. Yet we are supportive of them. And are all of us 'nice' people? Hardly. What counts is whether a person speaks truthfully and acts positively, and whether as a group there is enough good in their stand to deserve support. People looking for absolutes in purity or popular support live in a dream-world.

It's our hope that people who might be confused about the current divisions within the Mohawk Nation will take the time to check out and understand the facts, viewpoints, and white society's role in creating the conflict, before blindly supporting one faction against another, or spreading misinformation about the struggle. That's simply responsible action.

The Conspiracy is All of Us

Anti-Imperialists Plead Guilty to Conspiracy

On September 7, defendants in the Resistance Conspiracy Case Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans and Laura Whitehorn pleaded guilty to one count each of conspiracy "to influence, change and protest policies and practices of the United States government concerning various international and domestic matters through the use of violence and illegal means", and to one count each of aiding and abetting the 1983 bombing of the Capitol Building following the U.S. invasion of Grenada. The guilty plea was the result of an agreement with the District Attorney who agreed to drop all outstanding charges against the other RCC defendants Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk and Susan Rosenberg.

"Our motivation for entering into negotiation was Alan's recurrence of cancer—we felt it was the only way to ensure that

he would not be subjected to the stress of a trial and the possibility of a longer sentence. With the RCC charges dismissed, Alan has a much better chance of winning parole and getting out of prison to recuperate successfully from chemotherapy. We believe that doing anything we can to save Alan's life is an expression of our revolutionary politics—a commitment to comradeship, to love, and to life." The six explained.

While Alan will "max out" in 2 years, Linda already has a 35 year sentence, Tim and Susan 58 years, and Marilyn 70 years (Laura is held in preventive detention). Under the terms of the plea agreement, Marilyn and Linda face a maximum 15 year prison sentence and Laura faces a maximum of 20 years in jail.

Linda and Laura will be sentenced on November 28, while Marilyn will be sentenced a month earlier. It is expected that the women will be sent to the maximum security prison for women in Marianna, Florida. Alan and Tim will definitely be sent back to U.P.S. Marion.

The conspiracy conviction is a victory for the U.S. state and sets a dangerous agenda for its continued usage of conspiracy laws to prosecute and criminalise the liberation movements within the U.S.

However, activist and prisoners have made it clear that they will continue to resist using all means available and will not let the threat of possible conspiracy charges hinder their work. One sign of this was the courtroom filled to capacity with supporters when the three women pleaded guilty.

Audubon Ballroom Slated for Destruction

Resistance... the Legacy of Malcolm X Lives

The city of New York has given approval to Columbia University to build a \$25 million bio-chemical research complex. This project requires the destruction of the Audubon Ballroom, site of Malcolm X's last speech and assassination on February 21, 1965. 60% of the facility's space will be leased to multinational corporations such as Johnson & Johnson, Dupont, Mitsubishi, to name a few.

Built in 1912 as a vaudeville house and movie theater in the Washington Heights/Harlem area of Manhattan, the

ballroom served as a center of Black and Latino culture during the 40's and 50's, and was used on a regular basis by Malcolm X and the Organization for African-American Unity during '64 and '65 to rally the Harlem community to the causes of anti-colonialism and Black liberation. The bio-technology research "park" will encompass the present site of the Ballroom and a number of surrounding blocks, six acres in all. The City and Columbia University claim that this bio-tech industrial

park will bring economic renewal to the blighted neighborhood.

In reality, most of the jobs that will benefit members of the community included jobs such as parking attendant, maintenance worker. Most new employees will be drawn from outside New York City.

The conviction of the immediate community, the majority of whom are of African descent, is that the Audubon must be preserved and restored as a monument to their slain hero, Malcolm

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What's Going On

Monday, Sept. 24:

On trial — for protesting the racist Royal Ontario Museum's Into the Heart of Africa exhibit. One of the defendants in the ROM 11 case will appear at an Old City Hall courtroom (Queen & Bay). Come out and support the Coalition for the Truth About Africa.

Friday, Sept. 28:

Oka is all of us — Support the Mohawk Nation benefit concert featuring Grievous Angels, Pat Temple & the High Lonesome Players and Anne Bourne at Trinity St. Paul's Church (427 Bloor W). Doors open at 6:30pm. \$10/\$8 (unwaged). Funds go to the Defense Fund for Mohawk Sovereignty - call 921-0437 for more information.

Saturday, Oct. 13:

No new abortion law — Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics has organized a rally and march to pressure the government to respect women's reproductive rights. Starts at Queen's Park (College & University) at 1pm. Info at 969-8463.

Brand spanking new — Queer Nation, a rowdy gang with a mandate to confront homophobia everywhere, meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at the 519 Church St. Community Centre. (Next meeting: Oct. 8)

Don't forget the Mohawks — attend daily prayer vigils in front of Queen's Park at 6am (sunrise). Or, organize in your own way to confront the Canadian government's occupation of Mohawk territories. For info on daily events call 964-9414.

Audubon Ballroom

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X. It is a direct manifestation of Malcolms' legacy that the community defend itself from the onslaught of Columbia University's racist policies of gentrification and genocide.

The Malcolm X Coalition To Save The Audubon, a diverse grassroots organization, is waging a campaign to save the Audubon. To date, members of the coalition have been attacked by police and charged with various offences which were dismissed in court. The states' attempts to crush growing resistance to the biotech park have failed. Since the go-ahead was given to Columbia University, the struggle has only intensified and promises to continue doing so.

The situation now takes on more urgency. The Coalition is asking that all progressive groups send letters expressing solidarity and support. Send letters immediately to: The Malcolm X Coalition To Save The Audubon, PO BOX 760, New York, NY, 10030. Tel: (212) 781-0899. Solidarity is strength!

A Change is Gonna Come?

Ecomedia is considering changes in the format of its bulletin and the radio shows to better serve the anarchist/activist community. Any comments, or thoughts you may have on how we can change for the better should be sent to the address on the front of the bulletin.

Anarchist Hotline

For information on upcoming events of interest to the anarchist or activist community, or if you know of an event the community should know about, call the anarchist hotline, 535-5731.

Queer Nation

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Party, off the stage and prevented him from speaking to the press.

Later, posters appeared around the city bearing simple yet provocative messages: Queers are here, Out isn't enough, Dykes demand action... When school started, the University of Toronto campus was plastered with images of same sex couples accompanied by the question "Are you enjoying your orientation?"

The group will be working out its mandate and logistics at a meeting this week, but intends to be a never visible presence in the fight against homophobia (and complacency) everywhere. (See What's Going On section for more information on meeting times and location).

Ecomedia Toronto

Ecomedia is an international "wire service" that acts as an alternative to regular news services. We focus on news and often censored information on autonomous and anarchist resistance and analysis of current events.

Ecomedia Toronto is a local office involved in three main projects: a radio show every Wednesday on CKLN 88.1 FM between 7 and 8 pm on the "Word of Mouth" program; also another radio spot at 12:15pm Fridays on CIUT 89.5 FM; and the bulletin in your hands. Published bi-weekly and free at locations around the city; subscriptions are \$15/yr (26 issues) mailed monthly to cut costs. Order from the address on the front with cheques or M.O.'s payable to Ecomedia.